

>> interoperability among not only Kentucky law enforcement agencies, but also federal law enforcement and other public safety groups as well.

"You saw a shift from terrorism being the responsibility of federal agencies to it being pushed down to the local level," said Rob Ratliff, chief of Ashland Police Department. "Local agencies are more aware of terrorism now because they are more likely to run into some of these people before the federal agencies do. I think a lot of things have been put into place to help that communication along.

"The big focus was when an incident like that happens, you need to be able to communicate right then," Ratliff continued. "Not just in your agency, but between police and fire, then from agency to agency."

Owensboro Chief Glenn Skeens agreed.

"We have increased our interoperability through the Kentucky homeland security grant systems since then," he said. "This enabled us to institute mobile data

I don't believe that we are," Ward said. "I don't believe that interoperability is ever achieved until you can put boots on the table with a portable radio in hand. That's where interoperability comes into play. I think the MDTs have made us more efficient, but I don't necessarily believe that they allow us to be more interoperable. I think one of the things we have done in Kentucky that has been tremendous is the KYOps program. That was all built primarily with homeland security funds, and that is a great tool that has been made available to local agencies across the state. But, sharing the data that comes from that is what has been lacking."

INTELLIGENCE-LED POLICING

The terrorist attacks showed just how important that data can be when it comes to creating intelligence. Information and the interpretation of that information to be used proactively has become a vital tool.

"We didn't really have a whole lot of training before [Sept. 11] on what to look for," Ratliff said. "Then that focus shifted. Some of the classes, the training about going beyond the traffic stop, has showed us how to look a little bit deeper. Those are some of the training issues that have changed since then. Now it's not like you are just stopping a speeder, writing them a citation and sending them on their way. You're looking for other indicators."

The KSP have established crime intelligence analysts at each of the agency's 16 posts as well as at the Fusion Center, Brewer said. It's a move he said the agency determined necessary after realizing the daily impact of good information.

"It has definitely, at least from the state police perspective, shined a light on how important criminal intelligence is in our everyday operations," he said. "Because so many of the things that we do end up lending themselves to homeland security-related issues. A lot of times [the analysts] are

working on everything from burglaries to robberies to cold cases to traffic-related issues. But, they are also very astute when it comes to homeland security-related issues and how those tie into many of the things we're dealing with on a day-to-day level."

Alexandria is similarly using their data to increase intelligence and interoperability, Ward said.

"We really hammer at getting data out from a patrol level," Ward said. "Bits and pieces of small information are put together to create intelligence. If you don't have that from the smallest common denominator — in our case it's the patrolman — if they aren't putting something into the system, then there is no way the analysts can extrapolate that information and turn it into intelligence. The only way that has any value is if those patrolmen see that information they are gathering has some usefulness to them locally."

The terrorist attacks also helped realize the importance of using intelligence to better protect our infrastructure. In Ashland, Ratliff said the city's port became a new concern.

"Here in Ashland, one of the big changes we have had locally is that we have gone from just having a boat dock on the river front, to now having a river-front park that has been designated as a port," Ratliff said. "So, a whole new set of rules have kicked in. When we have those larger, passenger watercrafts that dock here, then we have to be able to deal with those. Before, it was no big deal. They would just tell us they were coming, they would dock down there, and it was over with. That's not the way it works anymore. That designation as a port in Ashland, we've had to change the way that we do business to develop a whole new policy on those vessels coming in."

The river front is just one part of the critical infrastructure that has seen a new emphasis. The water treatment plant and federal building in Ashland are just a couple of the other things the agency has had to consider in a new light.

Owensboro is no different.

"Our situational awareness has changed greatly since Sept. 11," Skeens said. "Our focus on security, protecting vital target areas in our community and periodic checks on important infrastructure have increased dramatically."



▲ The Kentucky State Police now employ crime intelligence analysts at each of the agency's 16 posts, as well as in the Fusion Center, shown above.

terminals in all the police cruisers. Also through grant funding, our initial funding came through to have a bomb squad here in Owensboro."

Alexandria Chief Mike Ward said equipment like MDTs were long overdue in Kentucky.

"The homeland security funds were a way to say that we were interoperable, but